

**CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2012 / 6:00 PM

**COMMUNITY & RECREATION SERVICES
15960 NORTH BULLARD AVENUE
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:01pm

A. Roll Call

Sandra Staehle (Chair), Kathie Morgan (Vice Chair), Susan deJong, Fred Ramsay, ellise hayden, Julie Richards, Margaret Lieu (absent), Loretta Warner (absent)
Guests – Cindy Cooper and Barbara Lashmet of the West Valley Symphony

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Sandra Staehle (S. Staehle) advised that the Arts Festival is coming up on March 30, 2012. She advised that Connie Whitlock of WHAM has distributed the Plein Air document and one question was raised regarding oil paintings not being able to be dry by judging time. An exception has been made for oil paintings. The Plein Air document has also been distributed at Arizona State University and through some art teachers in the East Valley. S. Staehle reported that Connie Whitlock is having some difficulty getting food vendors for the festival. Fifty artists have already signed up as well as quite a few performance artists for the festival. S. Staehle also reported that the grant presentation will be going before council at tomorrow's work session. She also advised that she will be participating in a meeting this Wednesday evening with council and all other Boards and Commission Chairs to discuss municipal code for Board Meetings.

Kathie Morgan (K. Morgan) attended a Goodyear program where there were over 100 people in attendance. She advised that she has information regarding two additional groups, Montage Gallery in Tempe and Vermillion Promotions, for Connie Whitlock to contact for the art festival.

Susan deJong (S. deJong) attended the Diamond Ball decorations committee meeting as well as the Benevilla Farmers Market Meeting, Benevilla General Meeting, Benevilla Farmers Market and the Wigwam Farmers Market to help find vendors for the Art is Alive in Surprise Festival.

Julie Richards advised that tomorrow is our statewide Arts Advocacy Day. The Diamond Ball is coming up on March 10, 2012 which S. Staehle is the Chair of. There is a concert on February 19, 2012, Bata Ire. This Friday night there is the Honoring Diverse Cultures Exhibit at Marley Park opening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. There is a botanical illustration exhibit at the Gaslight Inn in downtown Glendale which will be open from 12:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursdays and 12:00-8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. There is an organ crawl coming up on February 25, 2012 which will go to the East Valley. Singing in the Rain is going on Arizona Broadway Theater through this weekend. Theater Works has a new Executive Director, Dan Schay, who took over on February 1, 2012 and is formerly the Managing Director of Phoenix Theater.

D. Staff reports

Tara Combs (T. Combs) reported that Second Sundays is happening this Sunday and will have a Spanish guitar group, the Sonas Brothers, performing from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the community park. The public art policy came back approved by the City Manager and the Legal Department. There are just a few minor changes that need to be made and we should have art hung soon.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Andy Cepon, eight year resident of the City of Surprise, requested that the Chair or the board as a whole advocate with City Council to start work sessions at a later time which would provide an opportunity for the public to speak on issues that affect them.

CONSENT AGENDA

E. Approval of items on the Consent Agenda

No items were identified as consent agenda items.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item – CITYWIDE – Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2012 Arts & Cultural Advisory Board Meeting.

Changes need to be made to the January 9, 2012 minutes:

- Item number 5 on page 3 should read that Sandi Staehle suggested awarded fund money to be used for the Police Department's graffiti program and not to be given to the Police Department.

Motion to approve minutes with change – ellise hayden, 2nd Susan deJong. Five yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Presentation by the West Valley Symphony Association.

Cindy Cooper, the Business Manager, and Barbara Lashmet, the President, of the West Valley Symphony made a presentation to the Board about the West Valley Symphony (WVS). They advised the Board that the WVS used to perform at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts in Sun City West until 2006, and then they performed at various churches in Sun City and Sun City West. They now perform at Valley Vista Performing Arts Center which seats 1302. They also advised the Board that they have a new Music Director and Conductor by the name of Cal Stewart Kellogg who has been a big draw for the WVS. There were 2,600 concert attendees last season and they expect to have 3,000 concert-goers for the 2011-2012 season, representing a 15% increase in attendance. The WVS partners and collaborates with the Rio Salado College/RISE Learning for life with the Community Event Series, the Sun City Grand/Grand Learning with the Education Series, the Dysart Unified School District with the Valley Vista High School, the Ghostlight Theatre at Valley Vista Performing Arts Center, the WHAM/ Surprise Art Festival taking place March 31st and April 1st, Musical

Surprise, the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Daily News Sun through Season sponsorship, the Wickenburg Children's Cultural Organization and the Peoria Unified School District. The WVS has purchased an \$8,000 system of risers to be used at the Valley Vista Performing Arts Center, however they are still in need of an acoustic shell to enhance sound and performance quality there. They have received positive coverage in local print media and they hope to continue to work with their existing partners as well as identify new organizations and people for collaborations and partnerships. Julie Richards (J. Richards) asked if they knew what the attendance was at the concerts. Cindy Cooper advised that there have been anywhere between 600 and 680 people at the concerts. She also advised that their audience really loves the Valley Vista Performing Arts Center. S. Staehle asked if there has been a younger audience in attendance at the events since they are taking place at the Valley Vista Performing Arts Center. Cindy Cooper responded that the crowd does appear to have some younger faces in it. She also reported that the WVS is interested in hearing how they can partner with the City of Surprise. K. Morgan suggested that there might be an advantage in having some of the Rio Salado/RISE Learning for Life Community Event Series take place in the evenings so more people could attend in addition to the daytime performances. It was discussed that there is more of a senior crowd at these particular events which is why they are so well attended during the daytime.

Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Consideration and Possible Action to Place Items on a Future Agenda.

- Presentation by the Arizona Opera
- Update from Connie Whitlock of WHAM on the Art Festival

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Fred Ramsay, 2nd ellise hayden

ATTEST:

Mark Coronado, Director
Community & Recreation Services

CERTIFICATION:

I, Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist for the City of Surprise Community and Recreation Services Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Board meeting held on February 6, 2012.

Heather Donaldson, Administrative Specialist

POSTED:

TIME:

Linda Stevens, Deputy City Clerk

SPECIAL NOTE: Individuals needing reasonable accommodations, such as large print materials and oral/ ASL interpreters, should contact the Disability Advocate at **623.222.3821** (Voice) or **623.222.3802** (TTY/VP) at least three (3) business days prior to the event so

arrangements can be made.